

many of them. I received at his hands many personal kindnesses. I was indebted to him for obtaining a seat near himself, which relieved me from occupying a seat that, in the then construction of the Chamber would have proved very detrimental to my health. I did not forget his kindness because of that fact, and because it afforded me the opportunity of cultivating a friendship and personal relations which have continued to exist till this day. I was then led to form a high opinion, an opinion which I entertain still, of the force of character, of the clear-headedness, of the sound common sense possessed by the Premier. And the revelations which have been made to us this afternoon, and which were made to us yesterday, have constrained me to believe that he has displayed signal evidence of ability in one respect at least, in that he has succeeded, as head of the Administration, in preventing certain members of it from flying at each other's throats. What may be the outcome of the present embroglio, it is impossible for me to say. I do not know whether or not the Premier will be enabled to reorganize his Administration, and it may be, within a few days, in the power of those who have been instrumental in procuring his overthrow to exclaim with some men in the past: "Le roi est mort, vive le roi." They may, perhaps, become Ministers in a new Administration. But if that be the case, of this I am convinced, that if the hon. gentleman becomes again simply a private member of this House, I trust that years of usefulness will be spared to him. In those years of usefulness as a public man I have no doubt he will continue to display those qualities of head and heart which, during twenty-five years, or more, have distinguished him as a public man, whether as a private member of this House, as the head of an important department of the Government, or as First Minister of the Crown.

Mr. CASEY. Like the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, I do not intend to discuss at any length the issue which is now before the House. I, like himself, and like many others who have a sense of fair-play, feel inclined to express my opinion of the immediate events which have been the cause of the downfall of the hon. gentleman to whose Government we on this side of the House have been long honourably opposed. It would seem that the hon. member for King's, N.B. (Mr. Foster), who has been, till lately, Finance Minister, told the House yesterday in an incidental moment of frankness—my hon. friend beside me suggests in a moment of weakness, and it may prove a source of weakness to him—at all events, in a moment of intentional or unintentional frankness, the hon. gentleman appears to have told us the truth.

In the course of his remarks yesterday he referred to those Ministers who have acted with him, as his colleagues; he spoke of the other six of the seven bolters as colleagues who had acted with him. So we look upon that hon. gentleman as the head of the provisional cabinet of wreckers; and I can easily believe he was the head of the movement, the history of which he briefly outlined yesterday, for everything in the whole proceedings indicates that he was the master-spirit in the movement. I should be sorry to think that several of those hon. gentlemen whom he designates as his colleagues, and who acted with him, would of their own motion, have taken the course which he states they have pursued in this affair. The tortuous course of policy they followed is more proper for the hon. member for King's to pursue than it is for any of the others in that wrecking cabinet, so far as their natural dispositions are known to this House. That hon. gentleman has been the moving spirit in the revolt, the leader of the mutiny.

Not to go into the matter at length, I may say that that hon. gentleman confessed that he and those who acted with him had entered the Government feeling no respect for, or confidence in, the leader whom they had asked to lead them. Remember, Mr. Speaker, that Sir Mackenzie Bowell did not have to go around and solicit the support of the hon. member for King's (Mr. Foster) or that of the other bolters. Sir Mackenzie was chosen by all of them as the one man who could lead the Cabinet under the circumstances of the day. Those hon. gentlemen declared they would support him; they accepted office under him, and were pledged as men of honour, not less than by their oaths as Privy Councillors, to give him their most loyal and hearty support during the time they held office under him.

Now, what, in brief, is the statement which was made to the House yesterday by the hon. member for King's? That hon. gentleman said that they took office at that time not then believing what they pretended to believe, that Sir Mackenzie Bowell was the right man for the place, and not having that confidence in him which they were bound, as men of honour, to have before they took office under him. And further, that during the whole time they remained in office under him, they retained that lack of confidence in him, and while the member for King's (Mr. Foster), then Finance Minister, was thundering from the platform at Smith's Falls and elsewhere about the unanimity of the Government, he and six others of that Cabinet were plotting for the downfall of the Premier.

That is what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) confessed to us. Not only did he confess it, but he almost boasted of it to us across the floor of the House. These men sitting at the